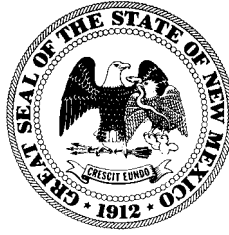


State of New Mexico



Office of the Attorney General
PATRICIA A. MADRID

PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
September 17, 2004**

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Santa Fe Woman Sentenced for Conducting Pyramid Scheme

(Santa Fe, NM)— A woman convicted of three counts of promoting and operating an illegal pyramid scheme today was sentenced to three years probation and restitution of \$40,000 to nine complainants who participated the scheme. If Medina violates her probation, she can face up to 4 ½ years in prison.

Donna Medina of Santa Fe operated a pyramid scheme from mid-September to mid-October of 2000. Each participant in the scheme invested amounts between \$1,250 and \$5,000 of their own money, expecting to eventually receive a significant return on their investments through the addition of more participants taking part in the program.

Attorney General Patricia Madrid said, "During the course of her scheme, I issued a statewide warning about these illegal pyramid schemes. She took notice because she immediately shut down her operation but, unfortunately, took the participants' money with her. I'm pleased to know that the court is not only going to make her pay the penalty for operating an illegal pyramid scheme, but is also making her pay back her victims."

"Whether they organize these scheme or participate in them, I want to reiterate to New Mexicans that not only are these pyramid schemes illegal and harmful, the chances of profiting from them are mathematically impossible for everyone to come out ahead. For those who don't believe I'm serious about protecting New Mexicans from these illegal operations, I am preparing to prosecute more cases of pyramid scheme operations around the State and I will shut them down."

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